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Diary of  
Captain Jabez Fitch.





Fitch, Jacob

Diary of Captain Jacob Fitch

New York, 1897 (3)

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"THE ELMS,"  
HYDE PARK, VERMONT.

MY DEAR MADAM:

In answer to your kind request that I give you all facts in my knowledge which might serve to authenticate the "Narrative of the Prison Ships," which you propose publishing for the benefit of the "Martyrs' Monument Fund," I hasten to state the following points: Capt. Jabez Fitch, the writer of the "Narrative," was my great-grandfather. My father died when all his children were very small. As often happens in such cases, the heirlooms became distributed among other branches of the family, and so in this instance this manuscript passed into the hands of an older member of the family, Mr. Cordilla W. Fitch, who resides in Morrisville, Vt.

Jabez Fitch was born in Norwich, Conn., February 15th (O. S.), 1737. He entered military service when but a youth, was in two or three campaigns in the old French War, and held a commission in the two first campaigns of the Revolution. He was captured on Long Island on the memorable 27th of August, 1776, and endured an eighteen months' imprisonment on the British prison ships, where he contracted a scorbutic complaint which embittered and rendered almost insupportable more than thirty years of his life. Besides this "Narrative" he kept a diary of events for forty years. Part of this journal that was kept during his campaigns in the Revolutionary War was sent to Washington, D. C., during his lifetime, to help him procure his pension, and the family have not been able to recover it. His constant reference to persons and places gives the diary great interest to those who are curious about the history of Connecticut and the early settlement of Vermont. Pardon me for making an extract from journal, written while on his second journey from Norwich to Hyde Park. It shows that Capt. Bissell, too, survived the severities of the British imprisonment and lived in Windsor, Conn.: "Friday, May 23d, 1788.—At 9 o'clock came to Bissell's Ferry in Windsor, where we crossed the river and called on my old friend, Capt. Bissell. Could not stop, but proceeded on our way to Suffield."

The list of grantees of the town of Hyde Park was made up largely of men from Norwich, Conn., among whom was Jabez Fitch, who came here with his three sons in 1788, and made for themselves a home in the wilderness and endured all the peculiar trials and hardships of the first settlers. They first provided a temporary shelter, the next season had a comfortable log house erected. In 1808 the house, still standing, was built where Capt. Fitch died in 1812.

Trusting that what has been so briefly reviewed may be of service in establishing the genuineness of the "Narrative," and therefore helping along your praiseworthy cause, I am,

Very truly yours,

VERNON D. FITCH.

HYDE PARK, VERMONT,

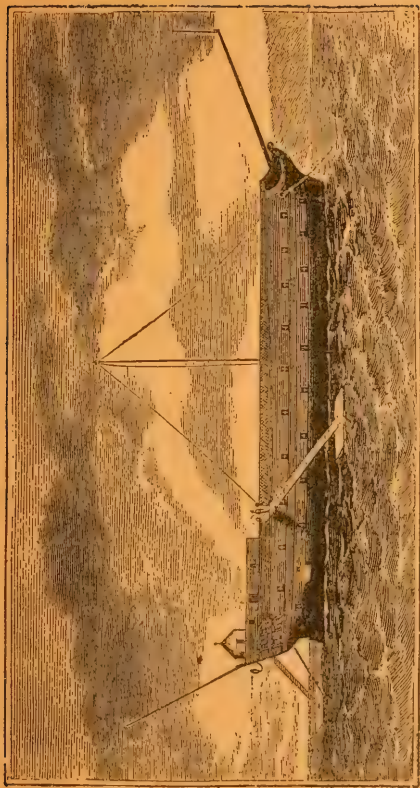
September 23d, 1897.

\* \* \* \* \*

TO MRS. S. V. WHITE, OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.,  
Chairman Monument Committee.



WILLIAM L. ...  
... ..



THE BRITISH PRISON-SHIP "JERSEY"

It is estimated that as many revolutionary heroes died from disease and starvation in the British Prison-Ships anchored in Wallabout Bay, adjoining the present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as were killed in battle during the entire war.

But of all these terrible prison-ships, the 'Old Jersey', the 'Hell', as she was called, was the most notorious. She was originally a sixty-four gun ship, which had become unfit for service."

Eleven thousand patriots died in the "Jersey" alone. After the war this old hulk was so eaten with the worms bred by pestilence that she sank where she was anchored, and the names of thousands of her victims sank with her, as it is said that nearly every prisoner found a space somewhere in her timbers in which to carve his name.

Dedicated to all Patriots

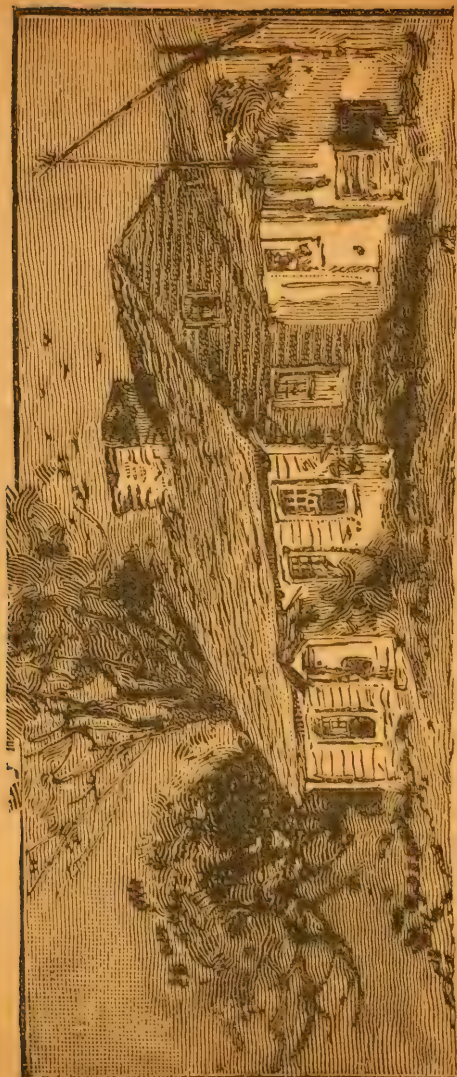
who are striving to make still more glorious  
our country, in whose cause so many heroes  
sacrificed their lives.

Eliza M. Chandler White,

Vice-President Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association.



A Narrative  
of the treatment with which  
the American Prisoners were Used  
who were taken by the British &  
Hessian Troops on Long Island  
York Island &c. 1776.  
With some occasional Observations  
thereon



Home of Jabez Fitch, Hyde Park, Conn.

Dear Sir:

As one of the most melancholy Ideas attending a State of Confinement in Jail like ours, is that of being separated from all Connection with those whom the Laws of Nature hath made most Desirable & agreeable to us; & for whose Welfare & Happiness we are naturally fill'd with the greatest Anxiety of mind, but yet are Deprived even of the agreeable Privilege of Intelligence from them; It may therefore be supposed that any one who hath fallen into so unfortunate a Situation, would gladly embrace an opportunity of communicating any material Intelligence to a Friend. Having according to my usual Custom, kept a Diary during the Course of my Captivity, making a brief memorandum of such Occurrences



... by the help of which, together with  
such particular Circumstances as were  
yet retained in my Memory &c. I have  
formed the following Narrative & Observa-  
tions, with a Design of communicating  
them to my Friends at home, if Divine  
Providence should present a favourable  
Opportunity for that purpose; The many  
Disadvantages attending the Circumstances  
of my writing, may be a sufficient Ap-  
ology for the vulgar & Irregular manner  
in which they appear; But as to the cer-  
tainty of Facts therein contained, I have been  
myself personally knowing to most of them,  
& such as did not happen within my own per-  
sonal Observation, I have collected from  
Authors

Authors whose truth & sincerity is not in  
least to be doubted

If this should be so fortunate as to reach  
you, I hope after reading it, you will com-  
municate it to my Family &c, but Desire  
y<sup>t</sup> it may not be lost or destroyed, as it  
~~it~~ may be Usefull to me hereafter in  
case I should be so happy as to survive  
this Captivity. Wishing all happiness  
to my Friends in particular, & my Coun-  
try in general I am Dear S<sup>r</sup>

New York 2<sup>nd</sup> }  
of April 1777. }

Your Affectionate Bro:  
J<sup>r</sup> Fitch

So Eliza Fitch Esq<sup>r</sup>



Shaving cup and strop made by Captain Bissell on board the prison ship Jersey and presented to Mr. Fitch.

## A Narrative &c.

It appears by various Usage, with which we have been treated during & course of our tedious Imprisonment, that Divine Providence hath not been more particular, in forming & different Features, & various Structures of Mankind; than it hath been in the formation of & various Dispositions & Capacities of & mind; Nor doth there appear to ocular view, a greater Distinction between & well proportion'd Courtier, or Citizen, in a Decent & Beautifull dress, & most deform'd African Butcher, or American Savage, in their murdering or hunting Uniforms, than an attentive Observer may Discover, betwixt & Person whose mind is animated with Sentiments of virtue



Virtue, Humanity and Friendship to  
Mankind in Genl. and w<sup>th</sup> Insolent  
Crown who knows no satisfaction, but  
in Acts of Cruelty, Slaughter & Rapine.  
Each of w<sup>th</sup> foregoing Characters, have fre-  
quently fell within our observation  
during w<sup>th</sup> course of our confinement;  
The former treating us with Politeness  
humanity & acts of friendship, Endeav-  
ouring to minister to our relief, and  
thereby alleviating / as much as possi-  
ble / our sufferings; While w<sup>th</sup> latter  
were ever treating us with w<sup>th</sup> most  
Savage Insolence, Malice & Cruelty.  
Endeavouring to augment / as much as  
possible / & make every part of our

sufferings, as great as their narrow Capac-  
city could bear them —————

It also appears, that many with whom  
we have been concerned, who seemed clothed  
with & greatest appearance of Gentelism,  
& disposed to shew & greatest Acts of Humani-  
-nity & Friendship; by a short times Appa-  
-rence, are found to have their Hearts  
& Tongues placed at as great a distance  
from each other, as & Citys of London  
in Europe, & New York in America: in  
consequence of which, it hath not been  
uncommon for us to find, y<sup>t</sup> on & having  
promises of Assistance & Relief, on any pe-  
-ticular Exigence, no more hath been seen  
or heard of & fair Promiser / perhaps / for  
some Weeks or Months; & then if through  
accident

accident or necessity, they happen to  
fall in our way, a very flighty or  
Evasive apology, is sufficient to justify  
their neglect of poor Prisoners, who are  
altogether in their Power; they also  
seem'd to expect y<sup>t</sup> we gratefully  
acknowledge to them, every favour  
y<sup>t</sup> we receive. even from the Almighty  
himself.

---

It would be impossible to rehearse  
many Instances of Insult, with which  
we have been treated. especially in y<sup>e</sup>  
four<sup>m</sup> part of our Captivity, when those  
unthinking Mercenaries vainly suppos'd  
they had little more to do, than Ravage  
a rich & plentiful Country. Deserted

by its Inhabitants; & also to treat us  
(who were so unfortunate as to fall into  
their hands) with as much Insolence  
as their narrow, tho' savage Capacities  
were capable of; Yet it ought to be  
mentioned, to y<sup>e</sup> Honour of some ~~who~~  
(both of y<sup>e</sup> Army & Inhabitants) who treat-  
ed us with humanity, & Endeavoured  
to protect us from y<sup>e</sup> Insults of others;  
I myself was so happy as to fall at  
first into y<sup>e</sup> hands of a party of this  
kind when taken prisoner; It was  
part of y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who used me  
with some degree of Civility, altho  
some particular Off<sup>rs</sup> were very libe-  
ral of their favourite Term (Rabel) &  
now & then did not forget to remind  
m<sup>e</sup>.



me of a halter &c: they did not <sup>Strip</sup> Robo<sup>n</sup>  
me of any of my <sup>Clothing</sup>, but only took my  
Arms & Ammunition, & after keeping  
me in a Field some time, in confine-  
ment with several others, under a  
strong Guard, was sent off to Gen<sup>l</sup>.  
Grant's Quarters, at Gowaynes —

In this March we pass'd through a  
Front of several Brigades of Africans.  
who were paraded on several ~~Lines~~  
Emminences in order of Battle: they  
Indeed made a very Warlike appea-  
rance, & as no power appear'd at y<sup>t</sup>  
time to oppose them, their whole  
Attention seem'd to <sup>be</sup> fixed on us, nor  
were they by any means sharing of  
their Insults; But their Off: ~~was~~

Especially, represented to us life (as  
far as their Capacities would Permit)  
the conduct of Infernal Spirits, under  
certain Restrictions; Having passed  
through those savage Insults, we at  
length came onto a hill nigh to the  
place where we at first engaged the  
Enemy in the Morning; we were here  
met by a number of Insolent Soldi-  
ers, among whom was one Woman who  
appeared remarkably Malicious and  
attempted several times, to throw  
Stones at us, when one of our Guard  
informed me that her Husband had been  
killed in this Day's Action; We were  
then conducted down to a Barn, near

the water side, where we were drove  
into a yard among a great number of  
Officers & men who had been taken before  
us; soon after we came here, Capt. Jew-  
ett with a number of others, were  
brought in, & confin'd with us; Capt.  
Jewett <sup>had</sup> rec'd Two Wounds with a Bayo-  
net after he was taken, & Stripp'd of  
his Arms & part of his Cloths; one  
in w<sup>h</sup> Thigh & other in w<sup>h</sup> Belly, of  
which he languish'd with great pain  
untill w<sup>h</sup> third day following when  
he Died; Sarg<sup>t</sup> Graves was also Struck  
in w<sup>h</sup> Thigh with a Bayonet, after he  
was taken with Capt. Jewett; of which  
Wound he recovered, at thro he after-  
ward perisht in Prison with many  
hundred others at N. York.

While we were here confin'd, we were  
assailed by many Regular Off<sup>rs</sup>, by whom  
we were asked many Questions; some  
of them seem'd inclin'd to Insult us,  
altho they might think it in a Po-  
lite manner; one of whom asserted  
to us with great Confidence, y<sup>t</sup> many  
of our principle Off<sup>rs</sup> had a permissi-  
on from Government, to accept Commissi-  
ons in U<sup>s</sup> Continental Service &c.

After being some time confin'd in  
this Yard, Capt: Jewett & some others who  
were wounded, were ordered to some  
other place in order to have their  
Wounds dress'd, & I see no more of  
them this Night —

When it began to grow dark, I Off<sup>rs</sup>  
who



Who were here confined ~~there~~, were ordered  
to an Adjacent House, where we were kept  
confined in a very dirty Room & two  
following Days & Nights; while we  
were here, we were visited by a num-  
ber of Regular Off<sup>rs</sup>, some of whom  
treated us with proper respect,  
and others with mean & low lived  
Insolence. Despising & ridiculing  
our mean appearance of <sup>many of</sup> us who had  
been stripped & abused by Savages  
under their command, nor did they  
forget to remind us of our British  
Laws against Rebellion, Treason &c,  
with many of their own learned Com-  
ments thereon, which seemed to give  
them wonderfull Consolation —

Early next morning, Capt. Jewett came  
to us in excessive pain with his wounds  
which had already been Dress'd, but yet  
notwithstanding & application, of several  
of our Enemys Cirgions, especially one Doct:  
Horn / a young Scotch Gent.<sup>l</sup> / who treat-  
ed him with great Civility & tenderness  
he languished while in Third Day fol-  
-lowing / viz / 29<sup>th</sup> of Aug: at about  
5 o'clock in the Morning, when he ex-  
pired, & was Buried in our Orchard  
nigh ? House at about 8 of same  
morning, with as much Decence  
as our present Situation would Ad-  
-mit; & myself was Indulg'd by Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Grant at application of Maj<sup>r</sup> Brown  
who attended us in this place, to attend

The Captain's Funeral; The afore said  
May: Brown, treated us with & greatest  
Civility & Complaisance, during our confine-  
ment in this place, & Endeavour'd to  
make our accommodations, as agreeable  
as possible; Gen<sup>l</sup>. Grant also was so  
good as to send us (with his Compliments)  
two Quarters of Mutton well Cook'd,  
& several Loaves of Bread, which were  
very Acceptable to us, as most of us  
had eat nothing since Monday before.

On Thursday at 2 o'clock some time in  
afternoon, May: Brown Inform'd us  
y<sup>t</sup> we were soon to be sent on Board  
y<sup>e</sup> Fleet, & y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Pacific (a large Trans-  
-port Ship) was prepared to receive  
us; About y<sup>e</sup> same time, a number

of Officers, & men, belonging to U.S. Navy  
came on shore in order to conduct us  
on board, & at about 4 o'clock we  
were ordered into U.S. Boats, being  
obliged to wade about two hundred  
Yards on U.S. Islands before we came to  
water sufficient to float U.S. Boats,  
it also rained very hard most of U.S.  
time while we were crossing U.S. Bay  
for U.S. Pacific lay over on U.S. other  
side, close under Staten Island -

The Off<sup>rs</sup> being about 24 or 25  
in number, were carried chiefly in  
one Boat, & U.S. men being between  
3 & 4 hundred in several other Boats  
and had their hands tied behind them.



In this Situation we were carried  
by several Ships where there appeared  
great numbers of Women on Deck,  
who were very liberal of their Curp-  
=ses & Exclamations; they were also not  
at all noisy in their Infults, but Clapped  
their hands & Used other peculiar ges-  
=tures in so extraordinary a manner  
y<sup>t</sup> they were in some Danger of leap-  
=ing overboard in this surprising Cata-  
=strophy; But at Length we arrived at  
St. Pasco, which was a very large  
Transport Ship; We climed up her side  
& soon after we came on Board, found  
y<sup>t</sup> our accomodation, were to be but  
very coarse, for notwithstanding Maj<sup>r</sup>  
Brown had Inform'd us while we were

at Gouyevies, <sup>54</sup> 1/2 Offrs were to have of  
Liberty of 4 Cabin bc yet Mr. Duns/ &  
Master of 4 Ship acquainted us 4<sup>th</sup> we  
were all, both Offrs & men without  
Distinction to be shut down below Deck;  
Accordingly at about Sunset we were  
all drove down 4 Stitches, with as many  
vile curses & execrations, as 4<sup>th</sup> Son of  
perdition, with his Infernal Undertrappers  
could express; When we came down into  
this Dungeon, we found but very Indiffe-  
rent Quarters, for both 4 lower Decks  
were very full of Dirt, & 4 excessive rains  
4<sup>th</sup> had fell of late, had drove in so plen-  
tifully as to quite cover them, so that  
so great a number of men treading 4  
Dirt & water together, soon made 4 Morter  
on.

or mud near half over <sup>our</sup> shoes; Beside all  
those inconveniences, there was no kind  
of platforms, or places prepared for our  
lodging, but what was so cluttered with  
Artillery, Carriages, rough pieces of Timber  
Kriging &c. &c. that there was not a sufficien-  
cy of Room for a Man to lay between  
them, nor was there a sufficiency of  
Room in whole assigned us, for but  
little more than one half of our num-  
ber, anyhow to lay down at one time.  
To add yet more if possible to our Calamity,  
some time in the Evening a number of 40  
Infernal Savages came down with a half-  
hour, & loaded two small pieces of Cannon  
with grape shot, which were placed aft of  
a Bulkhead & pointed thro' two Ports for that  
purpose

purpose, in such a manner as to make  
a Deck where our people lay: telling  
us at a fair time with many Carps  
y<sup>t</sup> in case of any Disturbance or the  
least noise, in y<sup>e</sup> Night, they were to  
be immediately fired on w<sup>th</sup> Damned Ribbet

In this unhappy Situation, we passed  
three tedious Nights, nor was y<sup>e</sup> Daytime  
much more agreeable, for altho ~~some~~  
some of us <sup>were</sup> suffered to come upon Deck  
part of y<sup>e</sup> time, yet we were insulted  
by those Blackguard Villians, in a most  
vulgar manner; Nor was our accom-  
modation on acct<sup>of</sup> Provision much unfa-  
miliar to our other Stage, especially  
in y<sup>e</sup> necessary Article of Water, of which  
we

we were not allowed any <sup>it</sup> was fit for  
a Beauf to Drink, altho they had plenty  
of good Water on board, which was used  
plentifully by <sup>us</sup> Seamen &c. —

The next morning after we came on  
Board this Ship, we found there was one  
Lieut: Dowdswell, with a party of Marines  
sent on board for our Guard; this Mr:  
Dowdswell treated us with considerable  
humanity, & appeared to be a Gentleman,  
nor were <sup>the</sup> Marines in Genl<sup>l</sup> so Insolent  
as the Ships Crew —

While I was here confined. I requested  
one Spence / <sup>us</sup> Mate of <sup>the</sup> Ship / to do me  
<sup>us</sup> favour of laying away a Regimental  
Coat & Hat (which belonged to <sup>us</sup>  
late Capt: Jewett) in some safe place.



So y<sup>t</sup> I might have them again when  
I should be removed to any other place,  
on which he had y<sup>t</sup> Impudence to  
Insult me in y<sup>e</sup> most Rude manner,  
& swore by his Maker y<sup>t</sup> no Damned  
Hebbel's Cloths should ever be found  
in his possession; but yet it seems  
y<sup>t</sup> notwithstanding this firm Repo-  
=sition, his mind soon Altered; for  
although I kept y<sup>e</sup> most critical  
watch over those Articles, together  
with my own watch Coat, which I  
could not conveniently wear in y<sup>e</sup> Day  
time, yet among those filthy Things,  
they were stole from me on Decr., &  
when search was made for them, I by  
the

the generous assistance of M<sup>r</sup>. Dowd, we  
found them all in a Gun Room, in  
the immediate care of this good M<sup>r</sup>. Spence  
who had been so peculiarly cautious  
in meddling with Ribbel's Clothing —

On the 31<sup>st</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Loring (a Commisary  
of Prisoners) came on Board, & took  
down the names & Rank of Officers,  
& names of Men; he treated us with  
complaisance & gave us encouragement  
of further indulgence; he also informed  
us that Col: Clark & many other of our  
Off<sup>rs</sup> were taken & confined at Platts-  
burgh, & that a Ship would soon be pro-  
vided for the reception of all our Off<sup>rs</sup>.  
So that they might be by themselves, &

not rounded with 4 Privates without  
Distinction

---

Untill now we had been made to  
believe y<sup>t</sup> we were to be sent home  
to Europe in Confinement, & that no  
Contract for Exchange of Prisoners, would  
be Admitted, but we soon found the  
gross Representation, of those Sons of  
Idolhood, to be so very Extraordinary, y<sup>t</sup>  
no dependance might be had on any  
of their Assertions; For we were Informed  
by them y<sup>t</sup> they had taken three thou  
sand of 4 Americans Prisoners, in 4  
Action of 4 27<sup>th</sup>, beside great numbers  
killed, which we knew to be a larger  
number than we had that Day Engag<sup>d</sup>  
themselves

in his Conversation, but yet not so Egrej-  
-ously Insolent & void of all humanity  
& Generosity as M<sup>r</sup>. Duns, who command-  
-ed us Pacific). But we soon found our  
selves more crowded here, than we had  
been before, this Ship not being more  
than half so large as the other, on which  
acc<sup>t</sup> most of us Off<sup>rs</sup> among the Prisoners  
Lodg'd on the Quarter Deck, & indeed we  
thought this privilege a considerable  
piece of Indulgence, altho some nights  
we were considerably wet with the  
Rain &c.

---

The same day y<sup>t</sup> we were removed  
on board of Lord Rochford, they hoove  
up & fell down through the Harrows,

after which she came too in w Bay  
off against Newbstreet Meeting house,  
where she lay a while after w Kings  
Troops took possession of N. York —

Sept: 3<sup>rd</sup> many of us wrote to our  
Friends in w American Army, with  
Expectation of sending our Letters by  
a Flag of Truce, which we had w pro=  
mise of being favour'd with: but our  
Letters (most or all of them) somehow  
fail'd reaching our Camp; for though  
w Off<sup>rs</sup> confin'd in other places, after=  
wards Rec<sup>d</sup> their Baggage &c in con=  
sequence of this Flag yet we who  
were confin'd on board this Ship, Rec<sup>d</sup>  
none of ours; But my own inspection



particular was unfortunately lost in our  
Army's Retreat from New York, (as I was  
afterward Informed) —————

This day our Offrs who had been con-  
fin'd at Hlatough, were brought on board  
<sup>Snow</sup>  
w<sup>th</sup> Mentor, which lay nigh to us, and with  
which we were all too well acquainted,  
afterward, for on 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> we were Remov'd  
on board this Snow, which was our Prison  
for a long time. Our accommodations here  
were but very Indifferent, altho much  
better than we had had, in either of w<sup>th</sup>  
other Ships, for we were now but a-  
bout Ninety in number, & w<sup>th</sup> Incl<sup>d</sup> Offrs  
had Liberty of w<sup>th</sup> Cabin &c, altho w<sup>th</sup>  
other Offrs had no other place for Lodg-  
ing, than forward of w<sup>th</sup> Stowage, between

Decks, & there but very faint Moon for  
all to lay down at w<sup>th</sup> same time —

This Snow was commanded by one  
Davis, (a very worthless low-lived fellow)  
yet happy for us. his Capacity was  
not sufficient to do any one much hurt  
yet we were now & then under an Necessity  
of holding a severe Wrangle with  
him on many occasions: We had also  
a Guard of Marines constantly on board  
by whom we were some times highly  
Insulted. —

When we first met on board the  
Mentor, we spent considerable of our  
Time in relating to each other w<sup>th</sup> per-  
ticular Circumstances of our first being  
Taken, & also w<sup>th</sup> various Treatment, with  
which

which we met on y<sup>t</sup> occasion, nor was  
this a disagreeable Entertainment in our  
Melancholy Situation

---

Next it seems that most of y<sup>r</sup> Officers  
& men. who were first confin'd at Plat-  
burgh, fell into y<sup>e</sup> hands of y<sup>e</sup> Hessians Troops.  
& were generally treated in a more Savage  
manner / if possible / than we who were  
first confin'd at Gowynnis, & had been  
most of us taken by y<sup>e</sup> British Troops,  
& although many had been both Robb'd  
& Murder'd by them, in a most Scandalous  
manner, yet it is said y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Hessians  
generally treated those who fell into  
their hands, with more Cruelty and  
Insolence than y<sup>e</sup> Britains; for it seems  
y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Hessian Off<sup>rs</sup> / though of never so

high <sup>th</sup>anks) were not inactive in this  
ridiculous practice of stripping, robbing,  
insulting & murdering & unfortunate  
Americans who fell within & limits  
of their power: The present appearance  
of our Officers and men, are an incontrovert-  
ible proof of those Facts, for many of  
them yet remain almost "Destitute of  
Cloths, several having neither britches  
stockings or shoes; many of them when  
first taken were stripped entirely naked  
at this

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\* Capt. Raymond of 4<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> after be-  
ing taken & stripped, was shamefully insulted  
abused by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Dehigster (in his own  
Person) who was so lowlived as to seize Ray-  
mond by w<sup>h</sup> hair of his head, threw him on  
the ground &c

---

altho some other, present, who had  
some small degree of humanity in  
their Composition, were so good as to  
favour them with some odd dirty  
wornout Garments, just sufficient  
to cover their nakedness. & in this  
Situation we were made Objects of  
Mischance for w<sup>d</sup> Diverfion of those  
Foreign Butchers —————

One Sam Salman (an Indian fellow  
belonging to w<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>.) after he  
was taken & stripped by w<sup>d</sup> Barbarians,  
was set up at a small Distance as  
a mark for them to shoot at for  
Diverfion or practice, by which he  
rec<sup>d</sup>. two severe wounds, one in w<sup>d</sup> Neck.



& other in W. Arms, but altho it  
appear'd y<sup>t</sup> their Skill in y<sup>e</sup> Use of fire  
Arms was not sufficient to Dispatch  
him in y<sup>e</sup> way. yet it afterward Ap=  
pear'd y<sup>t</sup> they were sufficiently Skill'd  
in y<sup>e</sup> cruel Art of Starving with hunger  
Cold &c. to Destroy him with many hun=  
dred others who perish'd in N. York —

On y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. Woodhull of y<sup>e</sup> Long=  
Island Militia, was sent from y<sup>e</sup> Mentor  
to y<sup>e</sup> Hospital at Newstreet; he was  
an aged Gentleman, & was taken by  
party of y<sup>e</sup> Enemy's Light Horse at  
Lanaca; & although he was not taken  
in Arms, yet those Bloodthirsty Savages  
cut & wounded him in y<sup>e</sup> head, & other  
parts

parts of y<sup>e</sup> Body, with their Swords, in  
a most Inhuman manner, of which  
wounds he Died at y<sup>e</sup> Hospital; and  
altho y<sup>e</sup> Directors of these Affairs, took  
but little care to preserve his Life, yet  
they were so generous to his Lady, as  
to Indulge <sup>her</sup> with liberty to carry home  
y<sup>e</sup> General's Corpse, and bury it with  
Decence

---

Soon after this there was a new Dis-  
~~tribution~~ position made of y<sup>e</sup> Prisoners.  
y<sup>e</sup> Europeans being Assigned a Ship by  
themselves, most of whom were soon  
after compelled to Submit unto y<sup>e</sup> King's  
Army; many of y<sup>e</sup> Americans were also  
afterwards

afterward compelled by hunger and other  
cruel Usage from the hands of those Unrelent-  
ing Barbarians, to follow the Example of the  
Europeans, & for want of present sustenance  
undertake in a Inhuman & Scandalous  
Employment of Butchering their Countrymen.  
A memorable Specimen of this was Exhib-  
ed not long before they were set on Shore  
at N. York, when they were kept several  
Days without any Provision at all, and  
for a full term of nine Days, not suffered  
the Privilege of any fire to cook what lit-  
tle provision they had —————

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> Officers, who were  
Prisoners, there was a considerable Quantity of  
Baggage &c in consequence of the late Plague  
which

which had been sent to N. York at our  
request; but I myself, with 4 other four  
Offrs of our Regt, who had been first  
sent on board W. Pacific, did not receive  
a single Article, by which we conclude  
ed y<sup>t</sup> our Letters had miscarried & of  
Consequence our Friends had no knowledge  
whether we had been killed or taken in  
late Action —————

While we lay confined at this place  
we frequently heard a heavy firing  
of Cannon up toward W. City, but more  
Especially on W 15<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> when there  
was a very Extraordinary Cannonade, &  
we were soon after Informed y<sup>t</sup> W Kings  
Troops this day landed on York Island —

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> at about 10 o'clock in  
the morning, we observed a very confid-  
-able light to W Northward, which we sup-  
-posed to be a burning of some buildings  
& as it continued while after Daylight,  
it was then succeeded by a very great  
Smoke which lasted most of Day, we  
concluded y<sup>t</sup> a fire must be in the  
City of N. York; This conclusion was soon  
after confirmed by many reports which  
we heard, with a most gross & futile  
representation of a Circumstance of this  
Malignant Catastrophy, when it was  
asserted to us with great confidence,  
y<sup>t</sup> the Rebels (as they Insolently call them)  
had



had set fire to W<sup>h</sup> City, & it great numbers  
of them were Detected in W<sup>h</sup> very Act, ma-  
ny of whom were Immediately Hang'd  
on W<sup>h</sup> spot, & others committed to Prison  
in order for Trial, who would Undoubt-  
edly be put to Death with more forma-  
lity; These & many other such false &  
Antile Representations, were made to us  
on this Occasion; without considering y<sup>t</sup>  
W<sup>h</sup> Americans might have Destroyed W<sup>h</sup>  
Town / if they had been so Inclined / without  
W<sup>h</sup> least hazard, but a few days sooner,  
while it was yet in their own Possession;  
nor was this futile Accusation propaga-  
ted by W<sup>h</sup> Vulgar & Ignorant only, but  
Gen<sup>l</sup> Robertson himself was pleas'd to

intimate something of it, in a Proclamation  
-tion & ~~the~~ issued some time after,

although he ought with Equal Truth  
& propriety have accused the Americans,  
with being the Occasion of the Eclipse of the  
Sun, <sup>which happened</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> following —

While we lay thus confined, we were  
also favoured with the perusal of Lord &  
Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe's famous Proclamation, pro=  
-mising to all Americans / on certain con=  
-ditions / the Indulgence of full Power  
& Privilege of Assistance &c.; But this  
Proclamation it seems was for a limited  
time, yet his Majesty's Commissioners,  
on the Expiration thereof, were graciously  
pleas'd

pleased to renew it for the full term  
of forty Days longer —

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>. all Ships which  
had Prisoners on board, together with 4  
Experiment & Resolution (Men of War)  
moulded through 4 Narrows, & came  
too off between Redhook & Gibbet Is-  
land, in 4 Centre of a great number of  
Men of War & Frigates, among whom were  
4 Eagle, 4 Rainbow &c. so 4 ~~frigate~~  
it seems we were now sufficiently  
guarded against any kind of Casualty,  
except Insult, hunger, Sickness or Death —

We were now in plain Sight of 4  
City, & had a particular prospect of  
4<sup>th</sup> part where 4 late Fire had been,

Although it made but a very Depolate  
& Melancholy appearance —

On Monday y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> We observed the  
Enemies were very busy in transport-  
ing Troops &c over into y<sup>e</sup> Jerseys: y<sup>e</sup>  
Americans having a considerable Camp  
at y<sup>e</sup> time at Bergen. (a small Town  
up a little <sup>distance</sup> from y<sup>e</sup> Water) they had  
also some small Redoubts or Batterys  
from which we frequently observed  
y<sup>e</sup> firing of Cannon &c but never  
learnt y<sup>e</sup> consequence: While we lay  
here we also observed y<sup>e</sup> Enemys De-  
stroying y<sup>e</sup> Works which we had re-  
ected at Red Bank, they set fire to  
them

them about this time, which burnt  
for several days. —————

We were also about this time informed  
y<sup>t</sup> a number of Prisoners, who had been  
Brought from Quebec, were soon to be  
sent out on Exchange; This Intelligence  
gave us some gleams of hope, that in  
our turn we should be indulg'd with  
a same favour, although we have  
since found (to our sorrow) y<sup>t</sup> those  
affairs have been Conducted with a  
greatest Partiality. —————

On Tuesday Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> all y<sup>e</sup> Ships y<sup>t</sup>  
had Prisoners on board, with a Resolu-  
tion (than of War) mov'd up North River.



as far as opposite to W. College, where  
they came too, & lay awhile after the  
Prisoners were Landed at N. York.

We this Evening Rec<sup>d</sup> Orders to be in Readiness  
to Land next morning, although we were held  
in suspense while W. Monday following & W. next  
day Capt. Davis Ordered a large Cable coiled  
away in W. place where we had Lodg'd. so  
that a number of us, had no other Lodging W.  
five following Nights, than on this Cable,  
which was much more uncomfortable than  
W. Deck itself; The Seamen also about this  
time began to overhaul W. Hold, & hoisted out  
great numbers of large water Butts, which had  
lain there many Years, & by striking out W.  
water & Mud, W. Decks were kept continually  
overd. while we Remained on Board; The weather

weather at this time being chilly & cold, our circumstances were now rendered much more disagreeable than usual —

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> there was a number of Ships came up to Town, which we suppose had newly arriv'd; many of them had Troops on board. & we observ'd w<sup>th</sup> landing a number of Light Horse from them: we were also soon after inform'd y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>th</sup> King's Army about this time rec<sup>d</sup> a considerable Reinforcement: among whom (it was said) was a Reg<sup>t</sup> of Waldeckers, several of Hanoverians & Brunswickers; we were also inform'd y<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Kniphausen of w<sup>th</sup> Hessians, arriv'd about this Time —

On Monday w<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> at about 4 o'Clock in w<sup>th</sup> Afternoon, we were disembark'd & landed at w<sup>th</sup> Ferry stairs, near w<sup>th</sup> Bair Market, where we remained on w<sup>th</sup> Wharf waiting

for ~~directions~~ from our Commisary, while  
near sunset, when Mr. Loring conducted us up  
to a very large house on the west side of  
Broad way, & in the corner fourth of Warren street  
near Bridewell; where we were assigned a  
small yard back of the house, & a stoop in the  
front, for our walk; we were also indulged with  
liberty to pass & repass to an adjacent Pump  
in the street.

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We had signed a Parole before we left the State  
but yet were not indulged with liberty to walk  
out, while after the taking of Fort Washing-  
ton, so that we were confined close in this place  
near five weeks; & altho' our Provisions furnished  
us by our Commisary, were insufficient to pre-  
serve the connection between Soul & Body, yet  
the Charitable People of this City were so good as to  
assist

afford us very considerable Relief on this acc<sup>t</sup>.  
but it was w<sup>th</sup> poor & those in low circumstances  
only, who were thoughtfull of our Necessi-  
ties, & provisions were now grown scarce &  
Excessive dear, so y<sup>t</sup> it was impossible for  
them to furnish a sufficiency for w<sup>th</sup> whole  
number of Prisoners, yet their unparalleled  
generosity, was undoubtedly w<sup>th</sup> happy means  
of preserving many Lives, notwithstanding  
such great numbers perished with Hunger.

When we first came to this house, we  
found here a number of American Offrs  
who had been made Prisoners since we  
were, among whom were Col: Selden, Col:  
Start, Col: Moulton &c; they had been first  
confined for several days, in w<sup>th</sup> City Hall,  
but some time since were removed to

this place: Col: Selden had been some time  
Sick of a Fever; of which he Died Friday  
following, at about 3 o'clock in Afternoon;  
his Corpse was provided with a Coffin, and  
Decently Buried in New Brick Churchyard  
next Day. most of our Officers who were Pri-  
soners. were Indulg'd with Liberty to attend  
his Funeral; In the latter part of his Sickness.  
he was attended by one Doct: Thatcher of our  
British Army, whose humanity & Attention  
to him, & several other Gent: who were  
Sick in this place, ought to be remembered  
with gratitude.

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Those Gent: having been made Prisoners  
near twenty days, later than we were, were  
able to give us very confidiable Intelligence from  
our Army; they gave us a particular acc: of their  
Retreat.



Retreat from Long Island &c. which had been  
performed with much less loss, than had been  
represented to us before; they also inform'd us  
of the Death of Maj<sup>r</sup> Chapman & some others  
who were kill'd in the Action of 28<sup>th</sup> of  
Sept<sup>r</sup>, when they were made Prisoners in our  
Army; Retreat from N. York —

When we were first confin'd at this house,  
great numbers of the Inhabitants of the  
City, were surpris'd & chiefly in consequence  
of false & injurious Informations, by their  
Malicious Neighbours, but time soon dis-  
cover'd the Fraud & Maliginity, of those Zealous  
Informers, who were afterward treated with  
the highest Contempt, & their Conduct  
had justly merited, & their honest Neighbours  
were set at Liberty from their unjust  
Confinement: a similar Piece of Policy after-  
wards

ward appeared in N. Jersey, while the  
Kings Troop made such rapid progress  
in y<sup>t</sup> State after y<sup>e</sup> taking of Fort Mif-  
-fington &c, when y<sup>e</sup> pretended friends to  
British government, in order to recom-  
-mend themselves to favour with y<sup>t</sup> party,  
in y<sup>e</sup> present Contest, seized on their ho-  
-nest Neighbours, brought numbers of  
their Prisoners into N. York, pillaged their  
houses, & Confiscated their Estates; Yet  
Justice seems soon to pursue them in this  
Zealous Enquiry, when y<sup>e</sup> American Army  
pursuing y<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Europeans, takes posses-  
-sion of y<sup>e</sup> Dwelling, of these Malevolent  
Sons, Devoting their Estates to y<sup>e</sup> pious Use  
of Defending their Country's Just Rights &  
Liberty; & altho many of their Persons were  
to

so lucky as to escape w<sup>th</sup> just Rage of their  
Injured Countrymen, yet were oblig<sup>d</sup> to skulk  
away into New York for w<sup>th</sup> protection of w<sup>th</sup>  
Hungs<sup>Brooks</sup>; and are now Reduced from a State  
of Affluence, to a very scanty subsistence  
or want of w<sup>th</sup> necessary supports of Life;  
And are also become Objects of Contempt  
& Insult, to w<sup>th</sup> British Army, while every  
honest American views them with w<sup>th</sup> great-  
est Abhorrence & Detestation —

About w<sup>th</sup> Time we were landed in N. York.  
Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe (having made several unsuccess-  
full Attacks on Fort Mifflin & w<sup>th</sup> adjacent  
Lines of w<sup>th</sup> American Army) removed w<sup>th</sup> main  
Body of his Troops, up East River, landing  
them at or near West Chester, from whence  
they proceeded to w<sup>th</sup> White Plains &c. —

During & after movements of our Army  
we heard a great Variety of Reports, generally  
greatly to our disadvantage of our Provincials:  
But it seems there was no considerable num-  
ber of Prisoners bro't into our City, while af-  
ter our taking of Fort Mifflington although  
there were great numbers of wounded (both  
of Britains & Hessians) who were generally con-  
vey'd to our Hospitals in our Night boats.  
Yet notwithstanding all their Endeavours  
to secrete their bad success, it appeared  
by credible Information, 4<sup>th</sup> soon after our  
taking of Fort Mifflington, their numbers  
of wounded in our Hospitals here & on Long  
Island, did not amount to less than two thousand:  
of consequence we concluded they  
must needs have had some killed, for our  
advantage

Advantages they had obtained, could not be  
without very considerable loss ———

On Saturd: Nov: 16<sup>th</sup> Early in morning we  
heard a heavy Canonade up to & Northward,  
which ~~last~~ continued a considerable time.

Soon after which we were Inform'd again<sup>st</sup>:  
Fort Washington <sup>with a great number of Prisoners</sup> was taken by W<sup>h</sup> Kings Troop;  
But as we had heard of same Report many  
times before, we at first gave but little  
Credit thereto, yet we soon after found it to  
be too true, & on Monday following W<sup>h</sup> Prisoners  
were brought into W<sup>h</sup> City, where they were  
confined in Bidewell & several Churches;  
Some of them were soon after sent on board  
a Ship for confinement: And on Tuesday  
W<sup>h</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> a number of W<sup>h</sup> Officers were sent  
to W<sup>h</sup> place of our confinement, among  
whom were Col: Hawlings Col: Hobby Maj:  
W<sup>h</sup> Clarks &c, Hawling, & Williams, were



wounded; there was also some other wounded  
Officers brought here, among whom was one  
Lieut: Stanford (a young Gent: from Virginia)  
who was shot through the Shoulder with a  
Musk: Ball, of which wound he died 2<sup>nd</sup> of Dec:.

By those Gent: taken at Fort Washington,  
we rec: some late Intelligence from our Army,  
& among other Important Events, they acquaint-  
ed us w<sup>th</sup> Death of Col: Knowlton (a very  
Usefull Off:.) who was kill'd in an Action  
on York Island w<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> of Sept:.

During our confinement in this house, we  
were often treated with w<sup>th</sup> greatest Insolence  
by w<sup>th</sup> King's Troops; & many of w<sup>th</sup> Charitable  
Inhabitants, who attempted to afford us  
Assistance, were also insulted, & frequently  
deny'd admittance when they came to visit  
us; we were also often insulted in w<sup>th</sup> most  
lowlived manner, by those who pretended to be

be friends to Government, and by worthless Refugees of our own Countrymen, who exercised their forked Tongues, as a continual Scourge for us after we were admitted to Parole —

Nov<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> most of us Off<sup>r</sup>s who were now Prisoners, were Indulged with Liberty to walk in Streets &c within our Bounds of our City, from sunrise to sunset; which Indulgence was continued as long as we remained in our City;

Nor was this Enlargement at all disagreeable, as we had suffered almost three months in close Imprisonment, great part of which time, we had been in our most disagreeable Situation; But yet we frequently met with Insults in our Streets, and when we visited those friendly People who had used us with humanity, & visited us in our close Confinement, they were often

Enlightened on our Acc<sup>t</sup>.

Having obtained Favour? Indulgence, & first  
Objects of our Attention, were & poor men who had  
been unhappily Captivated with us: they had  
been landed about <sup>some</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> we were, & con-  
fined in several Churches & other large Buildings.  
And altho we had often Rec<sup>d</sup> Intelligence  
from them, with a most Deplorable Repre-  
sentation of their miserable Situation, yet  
when we came to visit them, we found their  
Sufferings vastly superior to what we had  
been able to conceive, nor are words suffi-  
cient to convey an Adequate Idea of their  
Unparalleled Calamity; Well might the  
Prophet say, "They <sup>is</sup> to be slain with sword,  
"are better than they <sup>is</sup> to be slain with hun-  
"ger: for these pine away &c." Their appear-  
ance in gen<sup>l</sup> rather resembled dead Corpses,  
than living men; Indeed great numbers had  
already

Lament! 4<sup>th</sup>g.

already arrived at their long home, & ~~the~~  
Remainder appeared far advanced on ~~the~~ James  
Journey; their accommodations were in all  
respects, vastly superior to what a New England  
Farmer would have provided for his Cattle,  
& altho ~~the~~ Company pretended to furnish  
them with two thirds of ~~the~~ allowance of ~~the~~  
King's Troops, yet it was often observed, ~~that~~  
they were cheated out of one half of that.  
They were also many times entirely neglect-  
ed from Day to Day, & rec<sup>d</sup> no provision  
at all; they were also frequently imposed  
upon in regard to ~~the~~ Quality, as well as Quan-  
tity of their provision, Especially in ~~the~~ Necess-  
ary article of Bread, of which they often  
rec<sup>d</sup> such rotten, & mouldy stuff, as was entire-  
ly unfit for use.

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There was indeed pretensions of accommodations  
for ~~the~~ Sick & a large number of ~~the~~ most fee-  
ble were removed down to ~~the~~ Quaker Meeting

house on Queen Street, where many hundreds of  
them perished, in a much more miserable  
situation than I dumb Beasts, while those  
whose particular business it was to provide  
them relief, paid very little or no attention  
to their unparallal'd sufferings; This house  
I understand <sup>was under</sup> Superintendence of one Doct:  
Debake, who was an European Born, but  
had dwelt many years in America, & had  
been (at least) once convicted of Stealing,  
in consequence of which (not finding the  
Country very agreeable for his profession) he  
with many others of like Character had  
fled here for protection; It was said  
y<sup>t</sup> this Fellow often made application  
of his Lane among y<sup>e</sup> Sick, in stead of  
other medicines

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Nor was there any more Solemnity or Cer-  
emony bestowed on those miserable Sufferers.  
after



after they were dead, than while living, for  
their Bodies were thrown out on  $\mathcal{E}$  ground,  
where they lay almost naked, Exposed to  
w<sup>d</sup> Weather / tho never so stormy &c. / Indeed  
it was said y<sup>t</sup> some of them were Exposed  
to  $\mathcal{E}$  unnatural Devouring of Swine & other,  
greedy Animals, in a most inhumane &  
ridiculous manner; however this might  
be, they were most of them Buried, altho  
it was in a manner very uncommon  
for  $\mathcal{E}$  Interment of human Bodies, many  
of them being thrown in to  $\mathcal{E}$  ground in  
a heap, almost naked, where they were  
slightly covered over with Earth. —

Although this Beasty treatment of those  
Senseless Corpses, does not affect their persons,  
yet when considered in connection with their  
Usage of  $\mathcal{E}$  living, it shews  $\mathcal{E}$  unnatural, &  
Savage & Inhuman. Disposition of  $\mathcal{E}$  Enemy  
into whose hands we are fallen; & whose

Character / notwithstanding all their boasts  
of lenity & humanity / will bear a just  
comparison to those whose tender mercies  
are Cruelty —————

When we attempted to visit w Prisoners  
at w Churches, in their miserable situa-  
-tion, we were frequently repuls'd & deny'd  
Admittance by w Guard, who often treat-  
-ed us with w greatest Insolence, driving  
us back with their Bayonets, Swords, or  
Canes; Indeed I have often been in danger  
of being stab'd, for attempting to speak  
with a Prisoner in w Yard —————

There was no considerable number of Priso-  
-ners sent out while about w 24<sup>th</sup> of  
Dec<sup>r</sup>?, when a large number were Embark'd  
on board a Ship in order to be sent to  
New England; what privates of w 1<sup>st</sup> Reg.  
remained living, were included in this

number, but about one half of them had  
already perished in Prison; I was also af-  
terward informed, y<sup>t</sup> the Winds proving un-  
favourable & their accommodations & provisions  
on board the Ship, being very similar to  
what they had been provided with before,  
a large proportion of them yet perished  
before they could reach New England; so  
y<sup>t</sup> it is to be feared, but very few of  
them lived to see their native homes —

Soon after the afore<sup>d</sup> Ship sail'd for N.  
England, there was large numbers of Pris-  
oners sent off by Land, both to the Southward  
& Eastward, so y<sup>t</sup> when the Officers were  
removed over onto Long Island in the latter  
part of Jan<sup>r</sup>, there remain'd but very  
few of the privates in the City, except those  
who had been releas'd from their miser-  
able confinement by Death, which num-  
ber

number was supposed to be about Eighteen  
hundred

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It may be observed, y<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. Robertson  
(so famous for Politeness & Humanity)  
was commanding Off<sup>r</sup> in New York, &  
being w<sup>th</sup> fores<sup>t</sup> treatment of Prisoners.

It was said y<sup>t</sup> Governor Schene (who  
had been long confined Prisoner in Con-  
necticut) was so humane as to visit the  
Prisoners at W<sup>th</sup> Churches, & manifested great  
disatisfaction at their ill usage, & also  
several other Gent<sup>l</sup> of w<sup>th</sup> British Army  
had signified w<sup>th</sup> same Disapprobation of  
their ill treatment: yet I was never  
able to learn that w<sup>th</sup> poor Sufferers  
rec<sup>d</sup> any Advantage thereby

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Nov<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Rapellye, a Rich Tory  
who had belonged to Brookline, on Long  
Island, & had been taken up, on acc<sup>t</sup>  
- of

of being inimical to his Country, & lately  
confined at Norwich in Connecticut, but  
had obtained Liberty to Return to this  
City on Parole of Honour, under pretence  
of furnishing a number of <sup>us</sup> Prisoners  
here who belonged to <sup>us</sup> Neighbourhood,  
with Necessaries for their Support, I my-  
self being Included in <sup>us</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> number;  
This M<sup>r</sup>. Mabellye came to our Quarters  
& treated us with great Complaisance  
making us many fair promises of af-  
fording us Assistance & Relief; but as he  
had but just arrived, he must have a  
little time to make <sup>us</sup> necessary prepe-  
-ration for <sup>us</sup> <sup>us</sup> purpose, & would call on us  
again very soon —————

Soon after this <sup>us</sup> New England Officers,  
having rec<sup>d</sup> but very little Cash from their  
friends in <sup>us</sup> Country, since they had been



Captivated, & most of them who had Weth-  
ers & other valuable Articles which had  
escaped w<sup>th</sup> pillaging of w<sup>th</sup> Troops; had been  
obliged to dispose of them, to procure w<sup>th</sup>  
Necessary supports of life, w<sup>th</sup> poor men  
confined in w<sup>th</sup> Churches &c, being in a  
perishing Condition for want of support;  
The afores<sup>d</sup> Officers therefore Requested li-  
berty for one of their number to go home  
on Parole, to procure money &c for w<sup>th</sup>  
whole; & in consequence of this Request  
Maj<sup>r</sup> Wells was indulg'd with Liberty to  
go to Connecticut for w<sup>th</sup> purpose, & the  
Officers wrote to their friends by him, for  
such Assistance as they thought would be  
needfull: but we who had rec<sup>d</sup> such fair  
promises from M<sup>r</sup> Chapellge, wrote to our  
friends w<sup>th</sup> we had Dependance on him for  
Assistance.

assistance; but I have not yet been able  
to learn, y<sup>t</sup> this fair promisor hath paid  
any other attention to his Engagement,  
than to renew y<sup>e</sup> Age as often as any ap-  
plications hath been made to him by  
y<sup>e</sup> Off<sup>r</sup>, for Assistance; & although some  
of our Friends were so good as to send  
us some Relief by Maj<sup>r</sup> Wells, notwith-  
standing our Dependance on M<sup>r</sup> Kapellye,  
yet we might have all perished, for all  
any assistance from him; But yet it  
seems y<sup>t</sup> his Conduct is all of a piece for  
I understand y<sup>t</sup> he has paid no more  
Regard to his honour, in Returning to  
Norwich according to his Parole, than he  
has to his many promises made to us, for  
I am Informed y<sup>t</sup> he yet remains in New-  
York or at Brookline

I am also Informed y<sup>t</sup> one M<sup>r</sup> Jones of

New York who had likewise been confined  
at Norwich with M<sup>r</sup>. Kapellye, & on the  
same acct., obtained Liberty to Return  
to New York soon after him; & y<sup>t</sup> on his  
leaving Norwich, he generously offered  
his Land Lord (M<sup>r</sup>. Witter) to afford Assis-  
tance to such of y<sup>e</sup> Prisoners as he should  
Recommend for y<sup>e</sup> purpose, whereupon  
M<sup>r</sup>. Witter Desired him to furnish Lieut.  
Brewster & another Bro<sup>r</sup> in Law of his,  
(who were then Prisoners in New York)  
with such Assistance as their circum-  
stances should Require, which M<sup>r</sup>. Jones  
Engaged punctually to perform, in conse-  
quence of which Engagement, M<sup>r</sup>. Witter re-  
solved to send a sum of money &c., which he  
had then prepared for y<sup>e</sup> purpose, by Maj.  
Wells, who was then at home, & soon to set  
off

off for New York; But he (M<sup>r</sup>. Witter) wrote  
to Lieut. Brewster by a Major, & that he might  
depend on being supplied by M<sup>r</sup>. Jones  
according to a fores<sup>d</sup>. Engagement; Yet it  
seems & that this good M<sup>r</sup>. Jones (like his Bro<sup>r</sup>.  
Napellie) when he became restored to his  
Butlership remembered not Joseph; nor  
did he pay a least regard to his fores<sup>d</sup>.  
Engagement, for after Lieut. Brewster had  
several times apply'd for some Assistance,  
agreeable thereto, he was at length ~~informed~~  
informed & that M<sup>r</sup>. Jones had removed with  
his Family, to a Eastward part of Long-  
Island

---

The two foregoing Instances are sufficient,  
to give a just Idea of a Honour and Gratitude  
of a New York Tory;

---

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup> Col. Allen came to our Quarters  
he had been employ'd in a Northern Army, the  
forepart of a War, & was taken Prisoner in some

part of Canada about fourteen months ago:  
fore; from whence he was Transported to  
Europe (being kept in Irons) after which  
he was brought to America while the Brit-  
-ish Fleet lay down at Sandy Hook last  
Summer, from whence he was sent back  
to Halifax, & now is again bro't back  
to this place, where he had lately arriv'd  
& this Day came on Shore: he gave us  
a particular, & very entertaining acc<sup>t</sup>  
of many of his Adventures; and hath  
since been an agreeable Companion, to  
us in our Tribulations —————

For? 2<sup>nd</sup> several Off<sup>rs</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> Letters from  
their Friend, in the American Army, by  
some of which, we were Inform'd y<sup>t</sup> some  
hard money had been prepared to be sent  
in here for the Use of some of the Prisoners,  
but y<sup>t</sup> the Commanding Off<sup>r</sup> had Refused to  
suffer it to be brought in: who this one  
cant.



cautious American Gentle<sup>man</sup> was, we were not able to learn with certainty, but whoever he was, we are not greatly ob<sup>li</sup>g'd to him, for his peculiar ~~firm~~ Integrity.

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W<sup>15</sup><sup>th</sup> We were Informed y<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. Lee was taken Prisoner, which Rep<sup>t</sup> we gave but little credit too for several Days, but finally found it too well evidenced for Disbelief —

On W<sup>16</sup><sup>th</sup> Lt Col: Clark of W<sup>17</sup><sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Died at about one in A<sup>m</sup>orning, & his Corp<sup>s</sup> was Decently Interred in Evening following, in a new Brick Church Yard; A large number of W<sup>17</sup><sup>th</sup> Officers who were Prisoners, attended his Funeral: He had been sick of a lingering Disorder most of A<sup>m</sup> since we were landed from on board the Mentor

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W<sup>17</sup><sup>th</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Nye (a Prisoner from Connecticut) was taken Sick of W<sup>17</sup> Small Pox at our Quarters; he

was removed a few days after, to an Hospital  
prepared for <sup>that</sup> purpose: where he died on Sun-  
-day <sup>the</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> as I was afterward informed —

The Smallpox now being considerably spread  
in <sup>the</sup> City, several of us who had not had that  
Infectious Distemper, removed our Quarters to  
several other places where we thought our  
selves less exposed to <sup>the</sup> Infection: & were admit-  
-ted into <sup>the</sup> Families of our Charitable Friends,  
where we were entertained as long as we continu-  
-ed in <sup>the</sup> City, with <sup>the</sup> greatest humanity &  
Tenderness; although many of us were at  
present able to make them but a very Indif-  
-ferent Reward for their peculiar generosity.

Soon after this, many of our Off<sup>rs</sup> who had not  
had <sup>the</sup> Smallpox, took <sup>the</sup> Infection by Inocula-  
-tion, most of whom had <sup>the</sup> Disease very favour-  
-ably —

Dec: 23<sup>d</sup> May: Wells returned from Connecti-  
-cut, & bro't considerable Sums of money, & some  
Clothing for U<sup>s</sup> Use of U<sup>s</sup> Prisoners; He also Rec:  
(by him) a great number of Letters, <sup>as well as other agreeable Intelligence</sup> from our  
Friends in U<sup>s</sup> Country. —

After U<sup>s</sup> Taking of Fort Mifflin, a consider-  
-able part of U<sup>s</sup> Kings Army cross'd North River,  
with an Intention of trying their fortune  
in U<sup>s</sup> Jerseys; On which U<sup>s</sup> Americans Evacua-  
-ted Fort Lee, & retreated before them to U<sup>s</sup>  
Interior parts of y<sup>t</sup> State; But whether this  
Retreat was a movement of Necessity, or Policy,  
we have not (as yet) been able to learn; al-  
-though U<sup>s</sup> former hath been assign'd with great  
Assurance in all publications, as well as com-  
-mon Report here, yet U<sup>s</sup> Consequences of this  
movement carrying a very considerable appa-  
-rance of U<sup>s</sup> latter, we yet remain in Doubt. Nor  
Indeed do we much care what U<sup>s</sup> Cause was, since

we have it from good Authority, that the consequences thereof; hath been favourable to the Americans, for notwithstanding all our sufferings of every kind, & tedious delay of our Exchange &c. yet we esteem ourselves embarked in a common cause, & expect to stand or fall with our Country

---

About the same time y<sup>t</sup>. & afores<sup>d</sup>. Division of y<sup>t</sup>. King's Army marched into y<sup>t</sup>. Jersey, another considerable Division thereof, were embarked on Board a Fleet prepared for y<sup>t</sup>. purpose; & soon after sail'd from this Port; The place of their Destination was for some time conceal'd from us, but we afterward were Inform'd, y<sup>t</sup>. they took possession of Rhode Island, which y<sup>t</sup>. Americans had evacuated; But yet it seems y<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe found himself under an necessity of recalling a greater part of this Division of y<sup>t</sup>. Army, before y<sup>t</sup>. expiration of y<sup>t</sup>. Winter, in order to reinforce y<sup>t</sup>. <sup>other</sup>

other Division in the Jerseys. —————

During it's <sup>present</sup> movements, the wanted  
Influence of it's Troops & Tows was by no means  
at all abated, while they with peculiar satis-  
faction were continually using it word, Rebel,  
with it's same degree of pleasure & propriety,  
as it's Roman Clergy &c in Europe had done  
it's word, Heretic, in some of it's late Centuries;  
The newspapers, which seem to be it's only Ori-  
-cle of those people, & from which they collect  
their Articles of Faith, will give a tolerable Idea  
of their manner of Address &c; for Indeed there  
appears to be a very considerable degree of  
Consistency, between their Faith & Manners; I  
shall therefore Insert a short passage from their  
Prophet Hugh Gaine, which is contained in  
that part of his Prophecy Dated Dec: 9<sup>th</sup> 1776  
& is as follows (viz) "It is said by four  
persons who have lately seen it's Rebel Forces;  
"that they are it's most hitable collection of



"Ragged, Dispirited Mortals, is <sup>t</sup> ever pretended to  
"the name of an Army, is <sup>t</sup> not three thousand  
"even of these are to be found" &c —

But it is to be observed, is <sup>t</sup> notwithstanding  
this Deffpicable Representation of <sup>t</sup> American  
Army, from such undoubted Authority; yet  
it was but a few days after, when we were  
Credibly Informed, is <sup>t</sup> a whole Brigaid of  
Hoplans, with a considerable number of  
British Troops, had been entirely cut off at  
Brentown, most of whom were taken prisoners,  
with a large Quantity of Artillery, Baggage  
&c, by this small number of "pitiable  
"Ragged & Dispirited Mortals," & also <sup>t</sup> another  
Game of <sup>t</sup> Fairer kind had been played  
at Princetown, & four other places in that  
Neighbourhood, & <sup>t</sup> <sup>t</sup> whole had been Af-  
fected without any great Slaughter; those  
Reports by various ways & means, soon became  
so

so well confirm'd, & we could not doubt  
of Truth of them; there was there some  
little silent Rejoicing, among us poor  
miserable Mortals, of our Captivity, scattered  
up & down in this Scaffham —

Soon after this viz on 8<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> 1777.  
I accidentally happen'd in at a house where  
I had often been treated with great Civility,  
& sitting with a good Woman of the house, &  
some others who were also Disciples (though  
privately, for fear &c) when there came in  
an Elderly Gent<sup>l</sup>, whom I soon discover'd  
to be a Chaplain in the Kings Army, & it  
seems by his discourse, & that he had lately re-  
turn'd from the Jerseys; Indeed it was some-  
=what of an agreeable Entertainment to me,  
to sit & silently observe the peculiar Mixture  
of Fraud, Falacy Superstition & Enthusiasm,  
of this simple Clergyman's Conception, while

he with many Artificial Sighs, & heavy  
Groans, related his own personal adventures  
since he had left this City: he also gave  
some Gen<sup>l</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> of several late actions  
had happened in y<sup>t</sup> State, w<sup>th</sup> truth & Var-  
iety of which, I no more Doubted, than if  
I had Read them from y<sup>e</sup> prophet St. Gaine.  
He represented his own Fatigues during those  
late movements, to have been so great, y<sup>t</sup>  
he had scarcely had opportunity to undress him-  
self for Sleep y<sup>e</sup> whole time, altho he had  
been out four or five Weeks; & y<sup>t</sup> he has  
not undertaken to preach but once, dur-  
ing y<sup>e</sup> whole time, & was then fired on  
by y<sup>e</sup> Rebels before y<sup>e</sup> conclusion of Service.  
He also informed us y<sup>t</sup> a full party of Abol-  
itionists at Trenton, whose commanding Officer  
could not be made to believe y<sup>t</sup> they were in  
Danger, had suffered themselves to be Surprised, &  
y<sup>t</sup>

that some of them had been taken Prisoners  
by the Rebels; & yet the 17th Regt had been at-  
tacked at Princetown by a very numerous Ar-  
my of the Rebels; But yet notwithstanding  
the vast superiority of the latter in numbers,  
it could not be said yet they had obtained a  
Victory; He then concluded his Narrative in a  
very melancholy Tone, & with a Countenance  
full of Artificial Sanctity, observing that  
it was to be feared yet this trifling Success  
of the Rebels, had so elated them; yet it would  
have a tendency to protract the War; & that  
he was very apprehensive yet his Majesty's  
Commissioner's most Gracious Proclamation,  
would be suffered by the Rebels to run out  
without their Attention, the Consequences of  
which would be very, &c, &c, &c.

But I may here observe, yet I was so fortunate  
as to obtain Intelligence by this Gentleman's Servant

who had constantly attended him in his late  
Adventures, & whose appearance in regard to  
Simplicity, Indeed much resembled <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> of his  
Master, altho he appeared to, have ten times  
as much Integrity; This Serv<sup>t</sup> gave much of  
same acc<sup>t</sup> of several late actions, & <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> we  
had already rec<sup>d</sup> by various ways; & altho  
his Master had represented <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to have  
made such a Miraculous stand before <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> Ame-  
ricans, yet this serv<sup>t</sup> inform'd us <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> almost  
<sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> whole Reg<sup>t</sup> had been either killed or taken.

But since I have begun to introduce the wor-  
thy Author's Relation of Facts, I will also proceed  
to insert another more lengthy Paragraph, ~~from~~  
from this celebrated one among <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> four hundred  
& fifty (viz) <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> Prophet St. Gaire, which runs  
thus; "The Continental Currency is so junk in  
its Credit, <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> none of <sup>g<sup>t</sup></sup> Farmers will take it in  
Connecticut; Necessaries are now only to be obtained  
by



"by & Barter of Commodities. Salt is not to be  
"had in Connecticut under & Rate of forty<sup>1</sup>  
"Shillings lawfull per Bushel, which however  
"must be paid in Produce. They have every  
"Prospect of a Famine, as their last Crop of  
"Wheat is more entirely blasted than has e-  
"ver been known in & Memory of Man.  
"In short & whole Course of things has been  
"so much against & Cause. y<sup>t</sup> to use the  
"Impious Expression of one of their Preachers  
"before his Audience, it seems as if God almight-  
"ty was really turned Jory." —

I shall only observe on & foregoing Para-  
graphs, y<sup>t</sup> although May: Wells was in Connec-  
ticut at & time of & Date of this prophetic  
Declaration, & on his way back to New York  
passed through almost & whole State, yet  
on his Return, he acquainted us with none  
of & above Facts, but quite & Reverse; and

also y<sup>t</sup> we have repeatedly rec<sup>d</sup> Intelligence  
from indoubted Authors, from those parts  
which perfectly agree with y<sup>r</sup> Majors Re=  
-presentation; so y<sup>t</sup> on y<sup>e</sup> whole we are ~~for~~  
somewhat apprehensive y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> foregoing  
acc<sup>t</sup> may possibly be subject to Error, not=  
withstanding y<sup>e</sup> great authority from whence  
it comes; & y<sup>t</sup> since they, "from y<sup>e</sup> Prophet  
"even unto y<sup>e</sup> Priest, every one dealeth false  
"ly" perhaps it is a Lye. —————

But I shall yet proceed, & insert a 3<sup>d</sup> Pa=  
-ragraph from this Inexhaustible Fund of  
Intelligence, which is as follows, "The rum=  
"ming Disorder, which has lately very much in=  
"creased y<sup>e</sup> Rebel Army; we hear has broke out  
"in Rhode Island, & carried off many persons  
"belonging to y<sup>e</sup> Colony; it has one peculiarity  
"like y<sup>e</sup> Sweating Sickness in King Edward the  
"Sixth's time; for as y<sup>e</sup> affected English men ~~also~~ <sup>alone</sup>

"alone in all parts of <sup>the</sup> World, this Disease  
"Attack, only Rebel." —————

As to <sup>the</sup> Sweating Sickness above referred  
to, perhaps very few Armies (if any) have  
ever appeared on Earth since War was first  
introduced, could be supposed to be less in-  
fected with any thing of <sup>the</sup> kind, than <sup>the</sup> British Troops with their Auxiliaries now  
in America. But as to <sup>the</sup> other [viz] the  
running Disorder, perhaps this pious Infor-  
mer had forgot, or never heard of the  
peculiar Scene which appeared at Concord  
in April 1775, & also another more general  
Attack made by this Disorder, on <sup>the</sup> main  
Body of <sup>the</sup> British Army at Boston in March  
1776: This Attack was so very general, <sup>that</sup> it  
hath been said by some curious Observers.  
<sup>that</sup> there was not a single Off<sup>r</sup> or Soldier

Jan: 20<sup>th</sup> I Off: who were Prisoners on Parole  
in N. York, Rec: Orders to Remove over to Kings  
County on Long Island; A number of the  
Southern Off: crossed I Ferry I same day,  
& another party I Day following; & on the  
23<sup>rd</sup> most of I New England Off: crossed I  
Ferry, & were ordered to New Lots in I Town  
~~of~~ of Flatbush, where we were Billett  
ed generally by two, or three in a house, a-  
mong I Inhabitants. There being yet a  
large number of American Off:, they were  
Distributed in I Towns of Gravesend, New Lots,  
Flatlands & Flatbush, & were Indulg'd with  
Liberty of I Respective Towns, in which we  
were Billeted; But a number of I Officers,  
had not yet Recover'd of I Smallpox, & some  
were sick of other Disorders, who were Indulg'd  
with

with Liberty to continue in W City until they  
Recovered, most of whom were afterwards sent  
off to us in several Towns ~~afors~~? —

This new Disposition, was somewhat disagree-  
able to many of us, as we had now contract-  
ed considerable Acquaintance in W City, &  
were most of us in comfortable Quarters,  
with Families who had treated us with ~~great~~  
great Civility, & shewn us many favours.  
We had also had our Expectations greatly  
rais'd with hope of a speedy Exchange,  
which now seem'd to vanish, or appear  
at a greater Distance. There was also  
various Conjectures in regard to W Reasons  
or Cause of this Removal, some supposing  
it to have Originated from W Malignity  
of W Lords & Refugees, of whom there was



now great plenty in N<sup>o</sup> City, who were continually discovering their Rage & Disapprobation of every kind of Indulgence allowed <sup>to</sup> Prisoners; Others were of opinion <sup>that</sup> it was only design'd for our greater Enlargement, & <sup>that</sup> we might be accommodated with more agreeable Quarters than we had yet been provided with; Indeed it was said <sup>that</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe had lately rec<sup>d</sup> a very Spirited Letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Sullivan of the American Army, shewing w<sup>th</sup> highest Repentment at w<sup>th</sup> ill treatment of N<sup>o</sup> Prisoners, & also threatening to have recourse to w<sup>th</sup> necessary Laws of Retaliation in case such Usage should be continued

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But whatever might be w<sup>th</sup> occasion of the afores<sup>d</sup> Disposition, w<sup>th</sup> Consequences thereof <sup>prov<sup>d</sup></sup>

proved favourable to us for being Billietted  
among the Inhabitants, as hath already been  
observed. we generally found ourselves in much  
more agreeable circumstances, than what  
we had as yet been Indulged with; The limits  
of our Confinement being much larger than  
what we had enjoyed in N. York, we were  
under a greater Advantage for Exercise, and  
could also Visit each other at our pleasure,  
without Interruption or being exposed to  
Savage Insults; with which we had been  
so often treated; For altho in this place  
of our Confinement, we were not Strangers  
to this kind of Treatment, yet it general-  
ly proceeded from worthless Refugees and  
Vagrants, who are Despised even by the Inhabit-  
ants & by British Troops themselves. as

in y<sup>t</sup> part of y<sup>e</sup> Army y<sup>t</sup> escaped y<sup>e</sup> Disease.  
Nor does it indeed appear y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Britains &  
Hessians have been perfectly free from  
this Disorder, in y<sup>e</sup> Jersey, y<sup>e</sup> Winter passd,  
altho it must be with gratitude Acknow-  
-ledged. y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> very humane Applications of  
Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington, hath preserv'd many  
of them from that Ridiculous Disease by  
an Effectual medicine called by y<sup>e</sup> name  
of Captivity; This Medicine I know to be  
somewhat harsh & Severe, having taken  
an excessive large Portion of it myself.  
But however hope y<sup>t</sup> they may have a  
Suitable preparation of it, & y<sup>t</sup> both they  
& y<sup>e</sup> Americans may receive benefit thereby.

But I shall further observe, y<sup>t</sup> there  
is no one sort of people within y<sup>e</sup> Bounds  
of my Observation, y<sup>t</sup> have been so much  
subject

subject to this running Disorder, as those  
called Tories, who have been frequently Ob-  
jected to, "I see when none pursue," and as there are  
none who may with so great propriety be  
call'd Rebels, as those who are Enimical to  
their Country, it is a Question worthy of Ob-  
servation, whether these may not be within  
the meaning of the Prophet in the foregoing  
Paragraph; & as it is not uncommon to find  
certain Ambiguous & figurative Expressions  
in prophecys, & as I mean not to be Dogma-  
tical, or over confident in regard to their  
Explanation, I shall not therefore undertake  
to determine this Important Question, but  
would rather Refer it to a Venerable Priest,  
whom I have had occasion to mention in  
some of the foregoing pages, whose wise & learned  
Comments on the Prophecys contained in the Prophecys of  
the Prophet Hugh Cairn, might doubtless be very de-  
cisive to the Conference.

well as by us; And altho the Inhabitants are chiefly Iouys, & those who have a highest opinion of British Government and Administration, yet they are of a very Passive Disposition, & not much Inclined either to fighting, or to Insult those who Dissent from their Opinion in political matters.

Soon after we Remov'd over to Long Island, we heard of the Death of Col: Piper / a very worthy Gent: from Pennsylvania / who had been made Prisoner in the Action of 27<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>r</sup>, and had for some time been Sick of a Fever, in New York. We also about the same time heard of the Death of Capt: Hallow, of Island in Connecticut who had been made Prisoner in our Army, Retreat from N. York, under pretence, that he had been somehow suspected of having been concerned in the late fire, he was kept close Prisoner in  
.. then



the City Hall untill a few Days before we removed over onto this Island: by means of which long, and uncomfortable Confinement, he contracted such a complication of Disorders, as to End his Days soon after he came out of Prison —

There has also a number of other Offrs. Died During the course of our confinement; which I have not yet taken notice of in this Narrative, most of whom I have not been able to learn the particular time of their Death: among whom were Capt. Peoples from Pennsylvania; Capt. Booy & Lt. Butler from Maryland; these three Gent<sup>l</sup> were wounded in the Action of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>r</sup> & Died on Long Island; Lt. Makepeace of the 17<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> was also wounded in same Day, of which wound he Died at Flatbush the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup>; Lt. More of Lymebury in Connecticut Died of Sickness in N. York the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup>; Lt. Wheatley of Norwich, Lt. Williams of Chatham, Lt. Whiting of

Stratford, & L<sup>t</sup>. Gaylord of some part of Connecticut  
all Died in N. York.









